

Writing a Thesis Statement for your 7th Grade Research Project

What is a thesis statement? Where is it used?

- Tells the reader how you will interpret the significance of the topic (***Why is your topic important?***)
- Is typically a single sentence at the end of your first paragraph that presents your argument to the reader. The rest of the paper (the body of the essay) gathers, organizes and presents evidence to support the statement *you claimed as true* in your thesis.

Why is a thesis statement essential to the research process?

- A strong thesis statement expresses a clear purpose of a paper.
- It clearly defines what the paper is going to be about **BUT NEVER USES WORDS LIKE, “My paper is going to be about...”**
- The more precise the thesis statement is, the more likely the writing that supports it will be clear and organized.

A thesis statement lays the “foundation” for the rest of your paper, so you want to do this correctly. You’ll want to ensure that you have a strong, clear thesis so that the rest of the paper has something to properly “build” upon. Think of it like a house; without a strong foundation underneath it, the rest will crumble—regardless of how many “pretty” decorations (*words*) or lively colors (*details*) you may have built above it!



How do I begin to develop my thesis statement?

- Refer to your “Topics” page (Handout #2 in folder). What did you choose?
 - Person
 - Place
 - Era
- Ok, now what **subtopics** did you choose?
 - Subtopic #1: _____
 - Subtopic #2: _____
 - Subtopic #3: _____
- Notice the questions that were written next to your subtopic choices on your Topics sheet. These questions were chosen by your teachers to help you focus on the “Essential information” while you researched. They’re known as **“Essential Questions”**. Essential questions are what research writers must create BEFORE they do they write a thesis statement (and before the conduct research). For this assignment, it’s already been done for you.
- Now, revise your essential questions into a statement that clearly identifies the **following requirements of all 3-part thesis statements**:
Topic + purpose/position + subtopic 1 + subtopic 2 + subtopic 3
- To assist you in this process, follow the appropriate “formula” that has been started for you (turn page). ☺

“Formula” Thesis statements for *this* Research Project:

Below you’ll find three thesis “formulas” that are appropriate for this research project: one for you if your topic is a **Person**, another if your topic is a **Place**, and finally a third if your topic is an **Era**. Pick the one that matches your topic focus. Do not remove the words that are in bold; simply insert your own words to the “___” lines, as instructed by the guidelines in parenthesis.

Person:	_____ [insert person’s name] is/was [pick a tense] a _____ [choose & insert an adjective to describe him/her] during the _____ time period [insert dates or name of era] OR in _____ [place] because of his/her _____ [it’s recommended to add an adjective here] _____ [insert subtopic #1] _____ [insert subtopic #2] and _____ [insert subtopic #3].
Place:	_____ [name of place] is/was [pick a tense] a _____ [create a descriptive phrase to describe this place] during the _____ time period because of its _____ [it’s recommended to add an adjective here] _____ [subtopic #1], _____ [insert optional adjective] _____ [insert subtopic #2] and _____ [insert optional adjective] _____ [insert subtopic #3].
Era:	_____ [era] is/was [pick a tense] a _____ [choose an adjective to describe this time period] in _____ [insert years that this era took place] OR [insert name of place] because of its _____ [insert subtopic #1] _____ [insert subtopic #2] and _____ [insert subtopic #3].

Thesis Rough Drafts:

Pick the “thesis formula” that best matches your topic focus. Do not remove the words that are in bold; simply insert your own words to the “___” lines, as instructed by the guidelines in parenthesis.

Write out 2-3 different variations before choosing your final one—try several different wording options, and reflect on all three when you’re done before choosing the final one to go with. Use the space below or attach a separate sheet if you need more room. Put a star or circle around your final choice.